Hello Sihe Sun,

Welcome to the Master of Environmental Studies program at Evergreen. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming virtual events and are excited to learn about your interests, passions, and professional goals.

We hope this package finds you and your loved ones healthy and safe. In a normal year, we would be looking forward to meeting you in person for Admitted Student Day to share information about the Master of Environmental Studies program. This year, we plan to host our one-day event virtually to protect the health and safety of our community. Admitted Student Day is a great way to learn more about the program, engage in panel discussions with MES faculty, and current students, and to meet your future cohort to help you make an informed decision about your future. Admitted Student Day will be held Saturday, **May 22nd, from 10:00am – 2:00pm (Pacific Time)** and we ask that you let us know if you’ll be able to attend by registering through our Admitted Student Day webpage at:

 **https://www.evergreen.edu/mes/admitted-student-day**

Please reach out to Averi Azar at averi.a.azar@evergreen.edu if you have any questions about this event in May!

We also wanted to show our appreciation for your interest in our program, as well as your time and effort in applying, with an item connected to MES and our region. Please find enclosed in this package, an MES reusable canvas tote bag. We created these canvas totes to provide our students with additional reusable bag options and hope that they capture the beauty of our region with photos representing MES, The Evergreen State College, and the state capitol we call home, Olympia, Washington.

During the week leading up to Admitted Student Day, you will have many opportunities to engage with MES Program events such as Thesis Presentations, and experience some of the guest lectures that MES will host in May! Please save the following dates for upcoming MES events:

* **May 17, 12:00pm-1:30pm (PT)** – Professor Roger Karapin will lecture on “U.S. Climate Change Policies in the Biden Administration” followed by a discussion and Q&A session afterwards. You may attend this event through the following zoom meeting invitation:
	+ <https://evergreen.zoom.us/j/81142128409>
* **May 18 & 20, 3:00pm-6:00pm (PT)** – MES Thesis Presentations! Students graduating from MES in Spring 2021 will present their original thesis research projects in virtual public presentations. We will release the full schedule via email in the coming weeks with the Thesis Presentation titles for each student graduating this quarter. You will be able to attend the Thesis Presentations through the following zoom meeting invitations on the 18th and 20th:
	+ May 18 – <https://evergreen.zoom.us/j/83526821491>
	+ May 20 – <https://evergreen.zoom.us/j/82769585933>
* **May 21, 5:00pm-6:30pm (PT)** – Cammy Mills (MES Alumna) & Heidi Keller will present on Social Marketing followed by a discussion and Q&A session afterwards. You can attend this event through the following zoom meeting invitation:
	+ <https://evergreen.zoom.us/j/87190280520>

Additionally, we would like to extend invitations for upcoming virtual Evergreen events this Spring so that you can connect, not only with MES, but with your greater Evergreen community! Evergreen’s Climate Justice and Resilience speaker series will continue with a wonderful succession of talks, please save the dates for the following speaker events:

* **May 12, 11:30am-1:00pm (PT)** – Professor Amalia Leguizamón will lecture on “Environmental Injustice and Genetically Modified Soybeans in Argentina.”
* **May 13, 11:00am-12:00pm (PT)** – Dr. Rob Smith will lecture on “Climate Change Modeling With Lichen Communities.”
* **May 26, 11:30am-1:00pm (PT)** - Jeff Antonelis-Lapp will lecture on “A Virtual Field Trip in the Nisqually River Watershed”

You can learn more about these lectures, and will be able to access the zoom meeting information through the Climate Justice and Resilience webpage, as we approach these event dates: [sites.evergreen.edu/climatechange/spring-2021-speaker-series/](https://sites.evergreen.edu/climatechange/spring-2021-speaker-series/).

For now, we’re planning to launch our Fall 2021 cohort with hybrid learning classes with both in-person lecture, seminar, and for some electives labs or field trip options, as well as remote options for those who may be unable to participate in-person. We will adapt as necessary with changing conditions in Thurston County and Washington State, to protect the health of our community. One of our core principles at Evergreen is Collaborative Learning, which highlights the importance of developing “…knowledge and skills through shared learning, rather than learning in isolation and in competition with others.” Despite our physical separation this past year, we have committed to maintaining this collaborative learning environment and support system. This Fall, we hope to re-establish our program’s learning environment in physical classroom spaces and will provide you with the final details of our classroom plans as soon as Evergreen approves our learning model.

Stay safe and be well,





John Withey, Ph.D. Averi Azar, MES

MES (Interim) Director MES Assistant Director